Appl. No. 10/520,497 Amdt. dated February 15, 2008 Reply to Office Action of November 16, 2007

## Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

## Listing of Claims:

1-13. (Cancelled)

14.(Currently Amended) A purified polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a Na+/H+ transporter polypeptide which when expressed confers increased salt tolerance in a plant, compared to a plant that lacks the polynucleotide sequence; wherein the transporter polypeptide eomprises consists of:

i. an amino acid sequence which has at least 80% identical sequence identity to SEO ID NO:2; and

ii. fewer than 522 530 amino acids.

 $15. (Previously \ Presented) \ The polynucleotide \ of \ claim \ 14 \ wherein \ the nucleotide sequence is \ SEQ \ ID \ No. \ 9.$ 

16-20.(Cancelled)

21.(New) The polynucleotide of claim 14, wherein the nucleotide sequence has at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 9.

22.(New) The polynucleotide of claim 14, wherein the amino acid sequence has at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 10.

 $$23.$\mbox{(New)}$$  The polynucleotide of claim 14, wherein the amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 10.

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- 24.(New) A recombinant DNA vector comprising a plant promoter and a polynucleotide sequence encoding a Na+/H+ transporter polypeptide which when expressed confers increased salt tolerance in a plant compared to a plant that lacks the polynucleotide sequence; wherein the transporter polypeptide consists of:
- i. an amino acid sequence which has at least 80% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2: and
  - ii. fewer than 530 amino acids.
- 25.(New) The recombinant DNA vector of claim 24, wherein the promoter is a constitutive promoter.
- 26.(New) The recombinant DNA vector of claim 24, wherein the nucleotide sequence has at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 9.
- 27.(New) The recombinant DNA vector of claim 24, wherein the nucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO: 9.
- 28.(New) The recombinant DNA vector of claim 24, wherein the amino acid sequence has at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 10.
- 29.(New) The recombinant DNA vector of claim 24, wherein the amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 10.